

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)	
)	BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF SALUDA)	STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
)	
In the matter of the revocation)	
or suspension of the educator)	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
certificate of Robert L. Jackson)	
)	
<u>Certificate # 141545</u>)	

This matter comes before the South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) on the recommendation of John J. Fantry, Jr., Hearing Officer. As reflected in the Recommendation of Hearing Officer, attached hereto, all proper notice and opportunity for hearing have been provided as required by law. Upon consideration of the recommendation presented by the Hearing Officer, the State Board hereby enters the following Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Robert L. Jackson holds South Carolina Teaching Certificate number 141545. During the 2001-2002 school year, Mr. Jackson was under contract with the Saluda County School District as a teacher at the STAR Alternative School. Mr. Jackson was placed on administrative leave on December 18, 2001, following a report of inappropriate language in the presence of students. Mr. Jackson resigned from employment with the District effective June 30, 2002. The District provided notice of the allegations against Mr. Jackson to the State Department of Education. As a result of an independent investigation, the Department provided Mr. Jackson notices of potential suspension or revocation of his teaching certificate for inappropriate language in the presence of students and unauthorized use of his former Principal's name in an employment reference.

Mr. Jackson filed timely appeals and a hearing was scheduled for July 10, 2003. Mr. Jackson and the Department, both represented by counsel, appeared before John J. Fantry, Jr., Hearing Officer, on that date in Saluda, South Carolina. Following the presentation of stipulated

facts and proposed disciplinary actions, the Hearing Officer issued a recommendation, which is attached hereto. As stated in this recommendation: (1) Mr. Jackson acknowledges that on one occasion, he misused the Principal's signature on a reference letter; and (2) Mr. Jackson acknowledges that he used inappropriate language in the presence of students.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (1990). Just cause includes: "unprofessional conduct", S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (1990); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that the preponderance of the evidence presented by the Hearing Officer supports the retroactive suspension of Mr. Jackson's teaching certificate for the period January 1, 2002 through July 31, 2003. This suspension shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearing House and all school districts in South Carolina as disciplinary action on grounds of "unprofessional conduct."

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Greg Killian
Greg Killian
Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
August 12, 2003